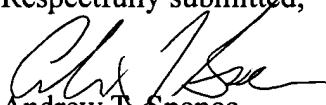


**REMARKS**

This Amendment is made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, and is filed concurrently with an Appeal Brief filed pursuant to the "Notice of Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences" filed November 18, 2004. As this amendment cancels claims 17-18, thus placing the currently rejected claims in better condition for appeal, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) (explaining that "[a]fter a final rejection ..., amendments may be made canceling claims ...").

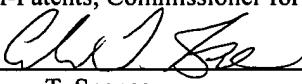
It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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Date of Deposit January 18, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

  
Andrew T. Spence